

PARENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO A BILINGUAL SCHOOL IN SALATIGA

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ABSTRACT

At the present time, many parents want their children to be able to speak in both their mother tongue and English. Children in three to twelve years old have a better chance to learn English, so the parents take this opportunity to send their children to a bilingual school. This study aims to examine parents' attitude toward sending their children to a bilingual school. Eighteen parents from Bethany Elementary School, a local bilingual school, participated in this study. A questionnaire with twenty-five items was distributed to explore parents' considerations and attitude on sending their children to a bilingual school. Questionnaires were distributed to answer the research question. From the questionnaires, the parents' attitudes on sending their children to a bilingual school are based on three main components. The result of the survey is categorized into three based on LaPiere's study (1934), as cited in McLeod (2014). The three components are (1) Cognitive Attitude: Parents' Awareness toward Bilingual Education in Early Age, (2) Behavior Attitude: Parents' Efforts in Helping Their Children Learning English, and (3) Affective Attitude: Parents Feel Children's Improvement in Learning English. Overall, the parents had a positive attitude toward sending their children to Bethany Elementary School. Besides, they also feel significant progress on their children's English skills.

Keywords: *bilingual, bilingual education, early education, parents, children, attitude.*